

To the most Honorable Assemblie the Commons

House of Parliament,

*The humble Petition of the English Brokers lawfully admitted to deale betweene
Marchants in London.*

Most humbly shewing.

THat for many ages past, it was the vse and custome of the Cittie of London, that none but freemen of that Cittie being English men borne, and householders, should be admitted to exercise the trade of a Broker betweene Marchant and Marchant, whereby great comodity did arise to the Comon Wealth for many yeers together.

That in these dayes many strangers borne, and the sonnes of Aliens, and others not lawfully admitted, doe vse and exercise Brocage betweene Marchants, by which meanes many intolerable and insupportable mischeifes do daylie happē vnto this Kingdome and State.

The Petitioners further shewes that those commodities which in times past did arise to the Common Wealth, by the admission onely of English Brokers, cannot conueniently be reestablished, nor the mischietes now daylie happening to this State, by the permission of Strangers Brokers, be preuented or reformed but onely by authority of Parliament.

The Petitioners therefore most humbly pray, that for the reasons hereunto annexed it may be ordeyned, that from henceforth no stranger: nor the sonnes of any Alien shall exercise Brocage in any wise, in any place of his Highnes Dominions.

The Reasons.

The Commodities arising to the Common wealth by the admission onely of English Brokers:

First they shalbe witneses of all sales made by strangers of Marchandizes imported, and shall keepe a perticuler remembrance of what Marchandize, by whom, vnto whom, and for how much the same shalbe sould, by which meanes the state vpon all occasions may be truely enformed, of the nature of their trading, and the difference betweene their importation, and transportation.

Secondly the debts estate and substance of the straingers may be hereby vpon all necessary occasions discovered, as also how much monyes they put ouer by Exchange: and what somes they haue at Interest.

Thirdly, the trade of English subiects wilbe hereby greatly aduanced, because Strangers or Aliens ought not to trade, or deale one with another in this Kingdome, but are to sell their commodities imported onely to his Maiesties English subiects.

The inconueniences happening to this State by the permission of Strangers and the sonnes of Aliens to be Brokers.

First thereby the Strangers is made acquainted with the secrets of our trade and dealings in this Land, for they haue Brokers and Factors of their owne nations, not onely in London, but in Exceter, Norwich, Colchester, Canterbury, Sandwich, and many other places, who bye and sell for them in this Kingdome, both ingrosse and by retaile, all manner of Clothes and Stuffles, made and wrought aswell by strangers as English, thereby driuing a wondrous full home trade in this realme, to their priuate enriching, and impouerishment of the English borne subiects.

Secondly, by permission of Strangers Brokers the estate of the Marchant Stranger is kept secret, and by reason that no accompt is takē of their trading, it is to be suspected that their monyes are made ouer by Exchange, or molton into Bullion, and transported in respect, that siluer carrieth a higher price in forraigne parts then in this Kingdome, and that there is such scarcety thereof in this Land.

Thirdly the strangers Brokers, seekeing the profit of the Marchant strangers and onely how to sell his commodities at the vtermost price, and the Marchant strangers likewise, wishing the profit onely of the strangers Brokers: the prices of forraigne Marchandize are thereby inhaunced the value of the commodities of this Land: much debased, and the saile of forraigne commodities imported into this Land, by English Marchants greatly neglected and hindered.

By which reason it playnely appeareth that by the suppression of strangers Brokers and admission onely of the English, the trade of strangers wil be discovered, the dealings of the English kept secret, the natiues of this realme releiued, and the conueying ouer of monyes by exchange and transportacon of Bullion the better preuented.

Brokers